

Appl. No. 10/062,346
Amdt. dated April 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 7, 2005

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Amendments to the Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. Applicants have corrected the specification to remove the underscore between the terms "pictorial" and "images".

Disposition of Claims

Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the proper tense of 'comprise'.

Claims 1 – 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,842,185 B1 (Mavrommati et al). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that both 6,842,185 (Mavrommati) and Applicants' present invention describe methods of navigating multiple displays in a hierarchy of displays in a repository. However, there are several features that distinguish the two methods. Mavrommati (6,842,185) describes a method that has one icon displayed at a time. This icon scrolls across the user screen one by one in a loop with some time between each icon. The first level looping icons, can be used to launch a second level looping icons, which can then be used to launch detailed information. According to Mavrommati, one objective is to have fewer icons displayed in order reduce confusion from having to select from a large number of icons on the screen (Column 1, lines 65-67). With this approach, for practical reasons the total number of icons at each of the two levels is low. Four icons looping at each level ($4 \times 4 = 16$) is probably the maximum, otherwise the time it takes to loop would increase the navigation time to an unacceptable amount.

Applicants' present invention takes an approach that is somewhat opposite Mavrommati. As shown in Figure 5, the entries for a directory or sub-directory as displayed simultaneously on the screen instead of scrolling through one at a time. The present invention displays the entire hierarchical directory for a selection. As shown in

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Figure 5, although the entire set of directory entries is shown, the selected entry in each directory or sub-directory is highlighted. In Mavrommati, only the selected entry for a directory is shown. Mavrommati does not want to show all of the entries as implemented in the present invention. Further, with Mavrommati, the final display will only show the entries chose by the user, not the complete set of options from which the user could choose.

With regard to claims 1 and 12, the Examiner states that Mavrommati discloses displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories. Mavrommati only shows the hierarchical path of entries, but not the complete hierarchical information. Referring to Figure 2 and column 4, line 1 of Mavrommati, icons from sequence 202 are shown on the screen in field 204. Once the user selects an icon from sequence 202, the icons associated with the selected icon are shown in field 214. When an icon is selected, only that icon selected is displayed. Selected icon 112 will be displayed in field 204, but not the other icons in that sequence. This pattern is implemented at each directory. Therefore, the result is only a display of the selection path, but not the complete hierarchical directory as implemented in Applicants' present invention.

Further with claims 1 and 12, the Examiner states that Mavrommati discloses displaying a viewing screen of the graphical display sets for a selected graphical display set, containing a row of buttons corresponding to the number of display sets in the selected category. This element of claim 1 refers to the arrangement in Figures 6 and 7 when the user has navigated through the directory and found the location of the desired set of displays. The description in Mavrommati as cited by the Examiner is referring to the process of navigating through the directory, but not the selecting of an image in the desired data set.

With regard to claims 5 and 16, in Mavrommati the user has to actually select the entry and not just place the cursor over the entry as is the case with the present invention. The placing of the cursor over the icon gives the user a list from which to select. Mavrommati uses the continuous scroll to present the sequence of options.

With regard to claims 10 and 21, Mavrommati does not do any simultaneous displaying each selected directory and sub-directory as a window on the same display

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screen. As mentioned, Mavrommati wants to reduce the number of items on the screen.

For this purpose, Mavrommati employs the scroll method.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that all of the elements of Mavrommati are disclosed in Applicants' present invention, the elements of:

displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories, hierarchical information includes the categories of graphical display sets for a selected entry in the directory;

displaying a viewing screen of the graphical display sets for a selected graphical display set, the viewing screen containing a row of buttons corresponding to the number of display sets in the selected category and a second row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set; and

displaying a graphical display corresponding to one of buttons selected from the row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set;

as described are not so disclosed. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number. Applicant submits that no addition fee is due. However, if any fee is due, please charge any fees due or any credits due to Deposit Account 09-4447 (Reference docket number AUS920010505US1). Please direct any questions or comments concerning this response to the below listed attorney of record.

Respectfully Submitted,



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